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COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS FISHERY TO CLOSE ON MONDAY AUGUST 11, 2003.

Based on dealer reports, *MarineFisheries* has projected the total quota (1,035,880 lbs.) for the 2003 commercial striped bass fishery will be reached by August 10, 2003. Fishermen may catch and land striped bass on Sunday, August 10 but are prohibited from landing fish for commercial purposes as of 00:01 hours on Monday August 11, 2003 through the end of the year. The 2004 commercial striped bass season is scheduled to open in July, 2004.

Authorized dealers may possess or sell striped bass in the state for only an additional five days through Saturday August 16, 2003. Dealers must submit their completed striped bass transaction forms for the 2003 commercial striped bass fishery no later than September 15, 2003. Transaction forms are required even if the dealer did not purchase any fish during the season as this constitutes written verification of the season's purchases as reported by phone. Transaction forms should be sent to DMF Statistics Project, 30 Emerson Ave, Gloucester, MA 01930.

Commercial fishermen are reminded that a 2003 striped bass catch report is due by October 15, 2003. These reports should also be sent to DMF Statistics Project, 30 Emerson Ave, Gloucester, MA 01930. Failure to submit a timely 2003 striped bass catch report may result in the non-renewal of a striped bass endorsement for 2004. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out at the beginning of the 2003 striped bass season. Additional forms as well as quota totals by week can be obtained from the *MarineFisheries* web site at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.

For further information please contact *MarineFisheries* at 617.626.1520.